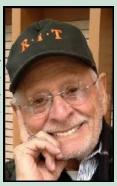
# January 2017 Volume 38, Issue 1

January 10, 2017 Greece Public Library 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

The Italians of Greater Rochester: Their Contributions to the Community and the Nation by Edward Maruggi, PhD

Early Italian arrivals to the United States began their new lives as manual laborers in eastern cities. Rochester was no exception. As enclaves grew, immigrants maintained strong ethnic ties with family and relatives back home while involving themselves in a new and very different way of life.

Edward Albert Maruggi is a second-generation Italian-American. He writes a bi-monthly column for an Italian-American newspaper and has authored thirteen books. Several of his books will be available for sale, including: *Italian Heart, American Soul; An Anthology; Remembrances: Growing Up With Italian Mothers; Grandmothers and Godmothers, Humorous Happenings While Traveling in Italy; and The Italians of Greater Rochester (NY): Their Contributions to the Community and the Nation.* 



Reservations required by calling the library 585-225-8951 or register on-line at <u>http://www.greecepubliclibrary.org/</u>

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# **MUSEUM Winter Hours**

Museum closed Sundays through the month of January.

The museum will reopen Sunday, February 5, 2017.

We will maintain office hours on Mondays in January if you need to contact us.

New Web Site Check out our new web site at www.greecehistoricalsociety.org



# "<u>President's Message</u>"



#### | Happy New Year to all !

We ended a very active year with our Holiday open house on December18th. Many of our friends and volunteers stopped in, including **U.S. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter**. It was also a busy day with lots of last minute shoppers in our museum gift shop.

The museum will be closed on Sundays during the month of January. It's time to do a little house keeping, but that does not mean there will be no GHS activities. We will have regular office hours on Monday and Tuesday mornings. If you need to reach us, give us a call.

Be sure to make your reservations for our first lecture of 2017, being held on Tuesday, January 10th at the Greece Public Library. All our members are welcome to attend our annual meeting on Thursday, January 19th at 7:00 pm at the museum. This is your historical society; we would love to hear your suggestions on how we can improve our services to the community or how we might help you with your family treasures.

We are planning some changes to the museum and preparing new exhibits for later this year. We will be sure to have more Sunday programs on Greece families this spring and we will continue Holy Sepulchre Cemetery tours when the weather improves.

For those of you who occasionally ask about membership renewal, our membership year is May1st through April 30th. We will be sending renewal notices in the coming months. As always thank you for your continued support.

### **Bill Sauers, President**

#### "<u>Museum Events</u>"

Museum and Museum Shop hours: Sunday <u>1:30 - 4p.m.</u> GHS office hours: Mon-Tue 9:30 a.m.-Noon Museum and Museum Shop also open office hours.

Tuesday, January 10th, 2017 Greece Library, 7:00 pm The Italians of Greater Rochester: Their Contributions to the Community by Edward Albert Maruggi, Ph.D.

Thursday, January 19th, 2017 Greece Museum, 7:00 pm Annual Meeting

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 Greece Library 7:00 pm Rediscovering Frederick Douglass with City Historian Christine Ridarsky

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 Greece Library 7:00 pm The Great War by Dan Cody



Join us February 14th for a screening of "Rediscovering Frederick Douglass", a film that tells the story of how a previously unknown photograph of the famed abolitionist and human rights activist, **Frederick Douglass**, was rediscovered. The 30-minute



documentary investigates the mystery surrounding this unique image, reveals details about the interesting life of the photograph's owner, and explores the ways Douglass used photography as a tool in the fight for social reform.

Following the screening, Rochester City Historian **Christine Ridarsky** will discuss the photograph, its discovery in the archive she manages, and the process of preserving and documenting it and give you an opportunity to see the original.

### We greatly appreciate your donations.

\*Tax deductible per Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

This newsletter is published monthly by the editor for the Greece Historical Society and Museum.

Cyndie Shevlin, Editor

### "<u>Museum Shop</u>"



It looks like winter is finally here and we are taking a break during the month of January. It gives us time to check our Shop inventory. With new exhibits coming out soon we will be looking for new items to support those exhibits. We'll be 'back in business' in February so remember to bring your 10% coupon for your purchases.

From all our Museum Volunteers, have a wonderful holiday!

Wendy Peeck, Museum Shop Coordinator

Museum Shop hours: Sun 1:30-4:00, Mon-Tue 9:30-12

# "<u>Tours and Education</u>"



For our Home Town Sports Exhibit, **Jason Bonsignore** donated one of his hockey sticks, of which he said we could hold a raffle. Everyone who visited the museum until November 20th was eligible to win.

Congratulations to **Dennis Ribulko**, who won the stick. Dennis is a member of the Greece Athena History Club. The club visited the museum in September when all the members submitted their names. This is a group of enthusiastic students who are interested in history. It is not a mandatory class; these young people give up their time after school. It's a pleasure to work with both the students and their teachers.

TOURS



In the last newsletter, I mentioned that Bill Sauers accompanied me to the Dr. Walter Cooper School #10 in the City of Rochester after they had already visited our museum. The 2nd grade students were comparing how their lives in the City compared to suburban living. Here are some of the things that they noticed during their visit:

**Breeya**: I noticed fake food & people in the One Room School House. **Jayden**: I noticed that they had an old phonograph in the Living Room. **Aniya**: I wonder where they got the fake snow? **Tyree**: I wonder if they have a Wegman's?

My lesson was to tell them the importance of my "job" at the museum. During a question and answer session I explained what I do. They were impressed that I do not get paid for my job, that I do it because I love it.

I used a Smart Board for the first time which they thought was funny. I told them that we all learned some things through this experience. I hope that this will continue to be an annual event.

Last, I would like to thank all the members of the Greece Historical Society for choosing to honor me with their Volunteer of the Year Award. This was given to me at the Open House on December 18th. I was very surprised -

the award is very much appreciated. I love talking about the house, having the school students visit and enjoy all the other opportunities that arise. It is a very rewarding experience, one that I consider worthwhile of my time. Once again, thank you.

### Kathie Firkins, Education Consultant and Tour Director



# Annual Meeting Thursday, January 19th, 2017

On Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., we will hold our annual meeting at our historic house and museum, 595 Long Pond Rd. Members attending will receive a copy of our 2016 Annual Report, view a photo montage of our activities from 2016, and hear about our future plans. We will present our financial report and hold an election of trustees. Trustees serve a term of three years. Those currently seeking re-election are: Gregg H. Redmond, Tom Sawnor and Cyndie Shevlin.

**Gregg H. Redmond** is a lifelong Greece resident and a practicing attorney. He attended Cardinal Mooney High School, St. John Fisher College and



John Marshall Law School. A former volunteer firefighter, he also volunteers for Honor Flight Rochester, Volunteer Legal Services Project and Habitat for Humanity. He and his family reside in Greece and are members of St. Law-rence Church.

**Tom Sawnor:** Retired with 30 years as a Rochester Police Officer. A.A.S. Degree in Criminal Justice-Police Science from M.C.C.; B.A. Degree from Empire State College in Political Science and M.A. Degree in American History from Brockport, Tom recently chaired our current major exhibit "Hometown Sports of Greece".

**Cyndie Shevlin:** A 30-year resident of Greece, Cyndie has been active in the Greece Museum for more than 15 years. She has owned her decorating business helping clients fine tune their home decor for 27 years and has a shop at The Shops on West Ridge. Having avid health and fitness interests, Cyndie has been an active participant in the YMCA for 35 years. She's a member of the GHS marketing committee and has been the Corinthian editor since 2008.

**Quote of the month:** "The only thing new in the world is the history you don't know." ~ Harry S Truman

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# **Meet our Volunteers**

### Volunteer of the Year

It has been our tradition to honor each year one outstanding volunteer who has contributed greatly to the Greece Historical Society. This year we honored Kathie Firkins. Kathie has been our lead docent for many years and is also our education coordinator. She coordinates school and group tours and frequently visits schools to tell students about the history of Greece. This year she was also on the Sports exhibit committee.



### New Volunteer:

Hannah Chhibber is presently serving as co-registrar of the Greece Historical Society as part of a team of three people. A graduate of the University of Rochester with a degree in Archaeology, she continued her studies at York



University in England where she obtained a Masters in Archaeology. Hannah recently applied to George Washington University's Museum Studies Program to gain another Master's degree as a museum professional. With her love of history and her good organizational skills she will go far in the museum field.

In keeping with the Collection Management Policy, Hannah has been responsible for evaluating the children's clothing and the underwear clothing in the collection as to condition, era, duplication, and importance to the collection.

Information about the garments remaining in the collection has been entered into our Pastperfect Museum Software's accessioning records along with the photographs she took of each item. She has de-accessioned the garments removed from the collection. She then prepared the garments for storage noting their location in the records. In addition, she is

helping us plan exhibits for 2017.

She says she loves working with Greece Historical Society. **Ruth Curchoe** and I love working with her. We have discovered beautiful hats, lacey petticoats, and mint condition children's dresses that have yet to be seen by our visitors. We want to rectify that and plan some small vignettes to display them.

### Lee Strauss

### Volunteers Needed

The Greece Historical Society needs a few volunteers who can commit their time and talent to help us serve the community, continue to provide stimulating programs, create new exhibits, and preserve the history of our Town.

Most jobs only require a few hours a week and we will provide the training. Our most pressing needs now are for a membership coordinator, gift shop help and as always docents for Sunday afternoon.

Give us a call at 225-7221 or email <u>greecehistoricalsociey@yahoo.com</u> if you want more information and we will explain the details of each of these jobs.



# **Greece Museum Community**

### Congresswoman Slaughter Visits GHS

We were honored with a visit by **U.S. Congresswoman Louise Slaughter** on Sunday afternoon, December 18th. She spent well over an hour touring the museum and talking to everyone who was there and telling us about her love of history and her childhood memories of growing up in Kentucky. She expressed her admiration for all the volunteers at Greece Historical Society who keep our community's history alive and even stayed to enjoy some homemade cookies. It's a real pleasure when our elected officials show an interest in history and express admiration for the work their volunteer constituents do. We certainly appreciated her kind words.



### Hometown Sports Exhibit Profiles

The Society's featured exhibit this year highlights the careers of 34 Greece sports stars, those whose careers encompassed high school, college and professional sport achievements.

**Megan Shoniker** was among those outstanding local players attending the grand opening of the exhibit this summer. Megan was on the varsity women's basketball team.at Greece Arcadia for six years. She was a four – time recipient of All Greater Rochester honors and holds the record for Monroe County's top scorer with 2,216 points. She had a stellar career at the University of Rhode Island, and is one of their all time leaders in points scored, three-pointers made and assists. She played one year of professional basketball in Europe for Belarus and while there was named the import player of the year in the Belarusian League. Megan is currently an Assistant coach for women's basketball at Canisius College.



# **Greece History**

### Greece Vets Return to Pearl Harbor by Marie Poinan

JACK FOY and GEORGE HAINES were two of the Greece Veterans that the Greece Historical Society interviewed for our World War II exhibit and book. Both were among the thirty veterans and survivors from across the United States who traveled back to Hawaii in December to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Their trip was complimentary as guests of the Greatest Generation Foundation, who also provided the photos included in this story. They were treated in first class style throughout their time in Los Angeles, having lunch with actor Gary Sinise (who played Lieutenant Dan), attending the service at the Arizona Memorial and traveling to the Punchbowl Cemetery in their custom-wrapped motor coach. They were treated like royalty at all their stops, a befitting tribute to remembering those who served.

Over 2400 servicemen were lost on that December 7<sup>th</sup>. One of the survivors from that fateful morning was **STANLEY HWALEK**, another of our interviewees, who was serving on the SS Nevada when Pearl Harbor was bombed.

You can read more about these three Greece veterans and other locals in the interviews that are included in the memorial book **Our Town in World War II** which is available for sale in our gift shop.



Greece Historical Society Greece Museum 595 Long Pond Road P.O. Box 16249 Rochester NY 14616-0249



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# CONTACT US

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<u>Office Email</u>: greecehistoricalsociety@yahoo.com <u>Website</u>: www.greecehistoricalsociety.org Your tax deductible membership in the Greece Historical Society is available at several levels. To join, renew, upgrade your membership or to donate a gift, fill out and mail the form below or bring it to our next program meeting. To pay via PayPal, visit our website at www.greecehistoricalsociety.org

Your donations and memberships keep our Museum open. Thank you for your support.

Membership Application			
GREECE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM			
(Please print)			DATE:
NAME:			PHONE:()
(Last) (Firs	st) (M.I.)	(Spouse, if applicable)	
ADDRESS:			New Application Renewal
(Street)	(City/Town)	(State) (Zip Code + 4)	
E-MAIL ADDRESS:			Donation
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP ( Student-Senior (62+) Individual Family Business/Professional	CLASSIFICATIONS \$15.00 \$20.00 \$35.00 \$50.00	- - -	Memberships are tax deductible. Please pay online via PayPal or make check payable and mail to : Greece Historical Society P.O. Box 16249 Rochester
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Senior Life (62+, Each) Life (Each)	\$350.00 \$500.00		You will receive your member- ship card and receipt by mail.